



From: Broadcasting Board of Governors
Date: February 26, 2016
Subject: **Minutes of the BBG Meeting of February 26, 2016**

The Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) met today in the Cohen Building (BBG headquarters) in Washington, D.C. The meeting was open for public attendance as seating capacity allowed and for public observation via streaming on the BBG website.

The meeting was attended by the following Board members:

Chairman Jeffrey Shell (via video)
Governor Matthew Armstrong
Governor Leon Aron (via telephone)
Governor Ryan Crocker
Governor Michael Kempner
Governor Karen Kornbluh
Governor Kenneth Weinstein
Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Richard Stengel

The agenda of the meeting is set forth in Attachment 1.

Governor Kempner called the meeting to order and noted that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act and streamed live over the Internet at the BBG website. He noted that Chairman Shell was joining the meeting via video conference and had asked him to preside over today's meeting.

Before moving to Board business, Governor Kempner noted that freelance journalist Almidgad Mojalli on assignment for the Voice of America (VOA) was killed in an air raid in Sana'a, Yemen. He added that Mr. Mojalli was reporting on the human and economic impact of the Yemeni conflict when he was killed in a Saudi-led military coalition airstrike. He also noted that the previous day, there was a very solemn ceremony held in the Cohen Building where Mr. Mojalli was remembered and his photograph was added to the fallen journalist memorial. Governor Kempner requested a moment of silence for Mr. Mojalli and stated that the Board will honor Mr. Mojalli in a resolution later.

Governor Kempner brought attention to the threats that other BBG journalists continue to face around the world. He highlighted the following incidents involving BBG's journalists: (1) In Azerbaijan, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's (RFE/RL) contributor Khadija Ismayilova marked 15 months behind bars, the Board joined Members of Congress, especially House Foreign Affairs Chairman Ed Royce and Representative Chris Smith, in calling for her immediate release; 2) The Board also called for the release of RFE/RL's Turkmen Service contributor Saparmamed Nepeskuliev, who continues to be held incommunicado by Turkmen authorities since July 2015; 3)

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In Afghanistan, the Taliban denounced VOA's Deewa Service and someone sent death threats to a VOA stringer – all in response to reporting on the assassination of a Taliban commander; 3) A reporter of VOA's Russian Service received threats on her personal Facebook account; 4) In Iraq, Alhurra-Iraq journalist Hadi Anbagi received a death threat after reporting on a four million dollar embezzlement and fraud scheme; 5) In China, the family members of Radio Free Asia's (RFA) Uyghur Service reporter, Jelil Kashgari, in far western China were questioned and harassed by Chinese police last year, including his mother's home was searched and she was interrogated about her son working for RFA; and 6) Also in China, the family of RFA's Tibetan Service stringer, Soepa Gyaltsso, continues to be harassed by Chinese authorities who had detained their 70-year-old father who lives in China's Tibetan area. On a positive note, Governor Kempner announced that in late December, the two jailed brothers of RFA's Uyghur Service reporter, Shohret Hoshur, were released and reunited with their families. Governor Kempner noted that, however, one brother of Shohret Hoshur still remains jailed, and called for his immediate release on behalf of the Board.

Moving to Board business, Governor Kempner stated that the presence of five or more Governors satisfies the Board's quorum requirement, permitting the Board to conduct business based on majority vote. He said that the Board had received by email materials for the consent agenda, and that there was no comment from any Governors.

Governor Kempner described the three items on the consent agenda for the Board's consideration: the minutes of December 16, 2015 meeting; a resolution honoring VOA's stringer Almidad Mojalli; and a resolution honoring the 30th anniversary of VOA's Creole Service. Governor Weinstein moved for adoption of the consent agenda. Governor Armstrong seconded. Without objection, the consent agenda was unanimously adopted by the Board.

In accordance with the Board's prior protocol for allowing members of the public to speak at meetings, Governor Kempner invited Ann Noonan from the Committee for U.S. International Broadcasting (CUSIB), Joseph Noonan from CUSIB, and Adam Clayton Powell III from University of Southern California, and to address the Board for three minutes.

At Governor Kempner's request, BBG CEO Lansing began his report by introducing Grant Turner as the BBG's new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and invited Mr. Turner to give brief remarks. Mr. Lansing acknowledged Connie Stephens who served as CFO during the interim period and publicly thanked Ms. Stephens for her great work on the BBG's Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Program Plan and the FY17 budget.

BBG CEO Lansing summarized the President's FY 2017 Budget Request, particularly the proposed investments, and noted that he worked with each of the BBG networks to ensure a strong, unified budget submission. He invited the following individuals to briefly comment on the proposed investments: RFE/RL Vice President Nenad Pejic, Acting VOA Director Kelu Chao, and Director of Technology, Services and Innovation spoke to the \$15 million for expanding digital, mobile and social content; Middle East Broadcasting Networks (MBN) President Brian Conniff and Mr. Pejic spoke to the \$2.5 million to expand Raise Your Voice (RYV) campaign followed by Ms. Chao's description of VOA's efforts to use existing funds to grow the RYV franchise that includes a multi-platform and interactive media strategy for

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reaching Hausa-speakers in an effort to thwart the recruiting efforts of the Boko Haram in Northern Nigeria; Mr. Lansing spoke to the \$2 million to expand BBG research capacity; and Mr. Mendes spoke to the \$4.5 million to expand the Kuwait transmitting station and global broadcast capacity. In response to Under Secretary Stengel's question about BBG's ability to measure shortwave listenership, Mr. Mendes elaborated on the regions where research is conducted and Governor Armstrong referred to the BBG Shortwave Committee's report for additional information on the audience's use of shortwave.

BBG CEO Lansing reported on the Impact Summit that was held with the BBG's network heads, researcher directors, and content producers on February 2 and 3. He noted that measuring impact is among his five strategic themes. He emphasized the importance of how BBG consistently identify and measure impact and hold itself accountable to impact, what those specific impact might be, and when those measures are consistent with all five networks and when are they unique to a particular entity. At Mr. Lansing's invitation, IBB Deputy Director Jeff Trimble described the goals and outcomes. Mr. Trimble noted that the Impact Summit produced important outcomes for BBG's approach to impact, in addition to facilitating dialogue that educated participants about the networks' challenges and opportunities. As an example, Mr. Trimble said that there was consensus among the BBG's networks that indicators for measuring impact should be common where feasible, but market-specifics will often require market-specific indicators. He added that outcomes will translate into a refined impact model, developed by the BBG's Research Directors, to inform the FY 2018 budget formulation. There followed a short video of the Impact Summit.

In closing, BBG CEO announced the newly creation of the Nathanson Public Diplomacy Scholarship sponsored by Marc Nathanson, former Chairman of the BBG, and his wife, Jane Nathanson. He stated that the Nathanson Scholarship is an exciting new training opportunity for all BBG employees. Specifically, it identifies emerging leaders and middle management officials in areas related to public diplomacy and international media, and funds their participation in executive training at the nonpartisan Aspen Institute. At Mr. Lansing's invitation, Chief of Staff Rob Fallon gave an overview and noted details on the process will follow in the near future.

On behalf of the Board, Governor Kempner thanked BBG CEO Lansing for his work which resulted in many positive activities and accomplishments.

The Board then took a short recess and reconvened for a conversation between BBG CEO Lansing and the BBG's network heads on key initiatives and collaborative activities aimed at maximizing their operations in today's challenging media environment.

Following the conversation, Governor Kempner announced that the next Board meeting will be held in the Cohen Building (BBG headquarters) in Washington, D.C. on April 14, 2016. He said that the Governors were encouraged to give input regarding other topics that they may like to see addressed at the next meeting.

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The Broadcasting Board of Governors agreed to the following decision elements (all decisions were adopted by a unanimous vote unless otherwise indicated):

1. Adoption of Minutes of December 16, 2015. The Board adopted the minutes of the December 16, 2015 meeting of the plenary Board as set forth in Attachment 2.
2. Resolution Honoring VOA Stringer Almigdad Mojalli. The Board adopted the resolution honoring Voice of America's (VOA) stringer Almigdad Mojalli as set forth in Attachment 3.
3. Resolution Honoring the 30th Anniversary of VOA's Creole Service. The Board adopted the resolution honoring the 30th anniversary of VOA's Creole Service as set forth in Attachment 4.

Other Attendees:

The following persons were also present during all or part of the meeting: BBG CEO and Director John Lansing; Chief of Staff Rob Fallon; Interim General Counsel and Board Secretary David Kligerman; Director of Board Operations Oanh Tran; Chief Financial Officer Grant Turner; Director of Congressional Affairs Ellona Fritschie; Congressional Assistant on Detail Bruna Ladeira; Senior Advisor on Communications Nasserie Carew; Jeffrey Trimble, IBB Deputy Director; Andre Mendes, IBB Director of the Office of Technology, Services, and Innovation; Kelu Chao, Acting Director of the Voice of America (VOA); Maria "Malule" Gonzalez, Director of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB); Nenad Pejic, Interim Manager for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL); Ben Herman, RFE/RL General Counsel; Libby Liu, President of Radio Free Asia (RFA); Brian Conniff, President of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks; Joshua Lipsky, Senior Advisor for BBG, Office of the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy & Public Affairs; and Robert Torres, Coordinator for Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) Oversight, Office of Inspector General.

Jeffrey Shell
Chairman

Witnessed:

David Kligerman
Interim Board Secretary

Attachments:

1. Agenda for February 26, 2016 Board Meeting
2. Minutes of December 16, 2015 Board Meeting
3. Resolution Honoring VOA Stringer Almigdad Mojalli
4. Resolution Honoring the 30th Anniversary of VOA's Creole Service

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ATTACHMENT 1

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS **February 2016 Meeting Agenda** (ALL MEETINGS ARE AT COHEN BUILDING, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.)

Friday, February 26

11:00 – 1:30 Broadcasting Board of Governors’ Open Meeting

Presiding Governor’s Remarks

A. Consent Agenda

- Draft Minutes of December 16, 2015 Meeting
- Resolution Honoring VOA Stringer Almigdad Mojalli
- Resolution Honoring the 30th Anniversary of VOA’s Creole Service

B. Public Comment

C. CEO & Director’s Report

11:30 Break for Lunch

12:15 Move to Studio 51, VOA Central News – 1st Floor

12:30 – 1:30 BBG Open Meeting Continued

E. Panel on U.S. International Media Coordinating Council

F. Other Items for Consideration at Next Board Meeting

1:30 BBG Meeting Adjourned

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ATTACHMENT 2

From: Broadcasting Board of Governors
Date: December 16, 2015
Subject: **Minutes of the BBG Meeting of December 16, 2015**

The Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) met today in the Cohen Building (BBG headquarters) in Washington, D.C. The meeting was open for public attendance as seating capacity allowed and for public observation via streaming on the BBG website.

The meeting was attended by the following Board members:

Chairman Jeffrey Shell
Governor Matthew Armstrong
Governor Ryan Crocker
Governor Michael Kempner
Governor Karen Kornbluh
Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Richard Stengel

Governors Leon Aron and Kenneth Weinstein were not in attendance. Other persons in attendance are listed at the end of these minutes.

The agenda of the meeting is set forth in Attachment 1.

The Chairman called the meeting to order and noted that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act and streamed live over the Internet at the BBG website.

Chairman Shell briefly noted that yesterday the Board met with Deputy Secretary Tony Blinken. He said that it was a great opportunity for the Board to discuss informally the BBG's priorities and cooperation with the U.S. Department of State. He noted all Board members were in attendance, but that Governors Aron and Weinstein had to travel soon after and therefore cannot be at the Board meeting today.

The Chairman Shell announced some key personnel updates since the last time the Board met in October. He noted the departure of Carlos Garcia-Perez on December 11 and the recent arrival of Maria "Malule" Gonzalez as the new Director of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB). At the Chairman's invitation, both Mr. Garcia-Perez and Ms. Gonzalez gave brief remarks. The Chairman said that Dan Sreebny's contract with the State Department also ended on December 11, and introduced Joshua Lipsky as Mr. Sreebny's successor, and will be reporting to Under Secretary Stengel on BBG matters. On the final departure, the Chairman noted Rob Bole's resignation in November to work for the New York Times, thanked him for his contributions to U.S. international media, and wished him luck in his new position. Chairman Shell then

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welcomed Ellona Fritschie as the BBG's new Director of Congressional Affairs reporting to Chief Executive Officer (CEO) John Lansing.

Before starting official Board business, Chairman Shell brought attention to the Committee to Protect Journalists' recent annual report, which it found that threats to press in China have reached unprecedented levels, with a record number of journalists behind bars there. He highlighted the following incidents involving BBG's journalists: (1) Soepa Gyaltso, who works for Radio Free Asia's (RFA) Tibetan Service for more than five years, has been receiving threatening calls from authorities to his home in India and his father was detained since November 25 in connection with Mr. Gyaltso's reporting from India on unrest in China's Tibetan region – a topic deemed sensitive and tightly controlled by Chinese authorities; (2) Shohret Hoshur, RFA's reporter, continues to await information on the fate of his brothers, two of whom were jailed in China in retaliation for Mr. Hoshur's extensive coverage of both escalating ethnic Uyghur-Han tensions and the Chinese government's crackdown on the mostly Muslim minority in the country's far west; (3) a correspondent for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's (RFE/RL) Turkmen Service remains in detention – he has been held since July; (4) Khadija Ismayilova, an investigative journalist for RFE/RL Azerbaijani Service, was imprisoned in Azerbaijan in December of 2014 on charges that are widely regarded as retribution by Azeri authorities for her reporting exposing corruption among the country's leadership and is serving an outrageous seven and a half year sentence; thus, on behalf of the Board, the Chairman called for Ms. Ismayilova's immediate release; and (5) reports of two Voice of America (VOA) stringers in Burundi being harassed, RFE/RL's reporters in Crimea and Kazakhstan being threatened, as well as two independent journalists who contribute to the Martis were detained and threatened in Havana, Cuba.

Moving to Board business, Chairman Shell stated that the presence of five or more Governors satisfies the Board's quorum requirement, permitting the Board to conduct business based on majority vote. He said that the Board had received by email materials for the consent agenda, and that he did not receive comments from any Governors.

The Chairman described the five items on the consent agenda for the Board's consideration: the minutes of October 8, 2015 meeting; a resolution honoring the 55th anniversary of VOA's French-to-Africa Service; a resolution honoring the 55th anniversary of VOA's Spanish Service; a resolution honoring first anniversary of Current Time – the joint production of VOA and RFE/RL; and a resolution honoring Carlos Garcia-Perez. Governor Kempner moved for adoption of the consent agenda. Governor Kornbluh seconded. Without objection, the consent agenda was unanimously adopted by the Board.

Chairman Shell stated that the Board would discuss the recommendations of the Special Committee on Internet Anti-Censorship (IAC), which was created in March 2014 to establish clear program objectives, devise a process of utilizing IAC funds, set up straightforward processes for oversight of IAC activities, and construct processes for measurement and evaluation. He noted that the IAC Committee recently convened by phone under the leadership of Governor Kornbluh to consider the newly developed Internet Freedom Framework and Governance documents. At Chairman Shell's invitation, Governor Kornbluh gave a brief report

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including a description of the key documents, and how their adoption would meet the goals of the Special Committee, setting forth a framework for sound governance of Internet Freedom Funds, and thereby also responsive to the Internet Freedom related recommendations from the Office of Inspector General's (OIG) report titled, "Audit of Radio Free Asia Expenditures." Chairman Shell thanked Governor Kornbluh, CEO Lansing and the staff for their efforts.

At the Chairman's invitation, Governor Armstrong made a motion to adopt the Internet Freedom Framework and Governance documents and Governor Kempner seconded the motion. In addition, Governor Kornbluh made a motion to dissolve the Special Committee on Internet Anti-Censorship upon its final report to the plenary Board per the BBG By-Laws, and Governor Crocker seconded the motion. As a result, both motions were unanimously passed by the Board.

In accordance with the Board's prior protocol for allowing members of the public to speak at meetings, the Chairman invited Adam Clayton Powell III from University of Southern California, and Joseph Noonan of the Committee for U.S. International Broadcasting to address the Board for three minutes.

At Chairman Shell's request, BBG CEO Lansing began his report by recognizing the recipients of the 2015 David Burke Distinguished Journalism Awards and invited everyone to a reception after the Board meeting to present awards to those outstanding individuals. Mr. Lansing gave a report on his trip to Prague where he visited RFE/RL's headquarters, and to Kyiv where he met with government officials, U.S. Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt, and RFE/RL and VOA correspondents at the bureau. He provided a summary of the November 17 hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee titled, "Options for Reforming U.S. Overseas Broadcasting." In conclusion, Mr. Lansing highlighted the following internal and external outreach activities: October 20 Town Hall; brown bags with future BBG leaders, VOA Operations, digital media thought leaders, and others; visits to VOA language services; November 2 Public Diplomacy Council; and December 2 U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy.

The Board then took a short recess and reconvened for a review of Radio Free Asia presented by President Libby Liu.

After the RFA review, Chairman Shell announced that the next Board meeting will be held in the Cohen Building (BBG headquarters) in Washington, D.C. on February 26, 2016. The Governors were encouraged to give input regarding other topics that they may like to see addressed at the next meeting.

In conclusion, the Chairman invited everyone to join the Board at 1 p.m. in the VOA Briefing Room for the presentation of the 2015 David Burke Distinguished Journalism Awards followed by a BBG-sponsored holiday reception.

The Broadcasting Board of Governors agreed to the following decision elements (all decisions were adopted by a unanimous vote unless otherwise indicated):

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1. Adoption of Minutes of October 8, 2015. The Board adopted the minutes of the October 8, 2015 meeting of the plenary Board as set forth in Attachment 2.
2. Resolution Honoring the 55th Anniversary of VOA's French-to-Africa Service. The Board adopted the resolution honoring the 55th anniversary of Voice of America's (VOA) French-to-Africa Service as set forth in Attachment 3.
3. Resolution Honoring the 55th Anniversary of VOA's Spanish Service. The Board adopted the resolution honoring the 55th anniversary of VOA's Spanish Service as set forth in Attachment 4.
4. Resolution Honoring the First Anniversary of Current Time – The Joint Production of VOA and RFE/RL. The Board adopted the resolution honoring first anniversary of Current Time – the joint production of VOA and RFE/RL as set forth in Attachment 5.
5. Resolution Honoring Carlos Garcia-Pérez. The Board adopted the resolution honoring Carlos Garcia-Pérez as set forth in Attachment 6.
6. Internet Freedom. The Board adopted the Internet Freedom Framework and Governance documents as set forth in Attachments 7 and 8, respectively.
7. Dissolving the Special Committee on Internet Anti-Censorship. The Board unanimously approved dissolving the Special Committee on Internet Anti-Censorship.

Other Attendees:

The following persons were also present during all or part of the meeting: BBG CEO and Director John Lansing; Senior Advisor Rob Fallon; Interim General Counsel and Board Secretary David Kligerman; Director of Board Operations Oanh Tran; Jeffrey Trimble, IBB Deputy Director; Andre Mendes, IBB Director of the Office of Technology, Services, and Innovation; Kelu Chao, Acting Director of the Voice of America (VOA); Myroslava Gongadze, Chief of VOA Ukrainian Service; Maria "Malule" Gonzalez, Director of the Office of Cuba Broadcasting (OCB); Carlos Garcia-Perez, former OCB Director; Nenad Pejic, Interim Manager for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL); Ben Herman, RFE/RL General Counsel; Christine Fetzko, RFE/RL Chief of Staff; Stephanie Schmidt, RFE/RL Acting Chief Financial Officer; Natalie Sedletsa, RFE/RL Kyiv-based correspondent; Libby Liu, President of Radio Free Asia (RFA); Brian Conniff, President of the Middle East Broadcasting Networks; Param Ponnudurai, RFA Vice President of Programming; Susan Lavery, RFA Executive Producer and Managing Director, SE Asia; Bay Fang, RFA Managing Director, NE Asia; Paul Eckert, RFA Director of English News; Catherine Antoine, RFA Managing Editor RFA Online; Lindsay Beck, Senior Program Manager, Open Technology Fund (OTF); Adam Lynn, Research Director, OTF; Rohit Mahajan, RFA Media Relations Manager; Elizabeth Henderson, RFA Director of Research, Training and Evaluation; Romesh Ratnesar, Chief of Staff for the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy & Public Affairs; and Joshua Lipsky, Senior Advisor for BBG, Office of the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy & Public Affairs.

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Jeffrey Shell
Chairman

Witnessed:

David Kligerman
Interim Board Secretary

Attachments:

1. Agenda for December 16, 2015 Board Meeting
2. Minutes of October 8, 2015 Board Meeting
3. Resolution Honoring the 55th Anniversary of VOA's French-to-Africa Service
4. Resolution Honoring the 55th Anniversary of VOA's Spanish Service
5. Resolution Honoring First Anniversary of Current Time – The Joint Production of VOA and RFE/RL
6. Resolution Honoring Carlos Garcia-Pérez
7. Internet Freedom Framework Document
8. Internet Freedom Governance Document

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ATTACHMENT 3

RESOLUTION HONORING ALMIGDAD MOJALLI

FEBRUARY 26, 2016

WHEREAS, Almigdad Mojalli served as a freelance reporter in Yemen for the Voice of America from October 2015 through January 2016;

WHEREAS, Mr. Mojalli specialized in reporting on humanitarian, war and conflict issues and contributed to the *Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN)* and *The Telegraph*;

WHEREAS, Mr. Mojalli was a talented and committed journalist who risked his life during armed conflicts to cover humanitarian crises, expose human rights abuses, and provide unbiased reporting;

WHEREAS, Mr. Mojalli was committed to non-violent solutions and providing a voice for the most vulnerable members of society;

WHEREAS, Mr. Mojalli was a loving father and family man with seven dependents including a small son; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mojalli gave his life so that others would have access to uncensored information.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Broadcasting Board of Governors hereby expresses its appreciation for Mr. Mojalli's courage and invaluable contributions in furthering the mission of the Voice of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an appropriate copy of this resolution be forwarded to the family of Almigdad Mojalli.

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ATTACHMENT 4

RESOLUTION HONORING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF VOICE OF AMERICA'S CREOLE SERVICE

February 26, 2016

WHEREAS, the Voice of America's (VOA) Creole Service started as a five-minute news feed in the early 1980s with one broadcaster, and it became a regularly scheduled broadcast on February 7, 1986, when a popular uprising forced Haitian dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier into exile;

WHEREAS, VOA Creole remains one of the most reliable and trustworthy source of news and information for Creole speakers in Haiti with Research indicating 81.6% of weekly listeners trust the news and information they received from the Creole Service;

WHEREAS, for the past 30 years, the Creole Service has covered many stories of significance to the Haitian audience, including:

- The rise and fall of the first democratically-elected President of Haiti Jean-Bertrand Aristide,
- The January 2010 earthquake that killed hundreds of thousands and left more than a million homeless in Haiti, and
- The inauguration of Barack Obama as the first African-American President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, in cooperation with other U.S. Government agencies such as the U.S. Department of State, VOA Creole Service provides training for Haitian journalists with more than a hundred journalists being trained in sessions in Washington and Haitian cities since 2008.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Broadcasting Board of Governors that we celebrate and commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Voice of America's Creole Service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Broadcasting Board of Governors commends and congratulates both the current and former members of the Voice of America's Creole Service for their dedication in serving the Haitian community, and in implementing U.S. foreign policy goals through the open communication of information and ideas in the Creole language.